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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Europe insists on new penal code - DB-Tercuman  
Greek FM vows to support clear 'Yes' for Turkey in EU -  
Milliyet  
Turkish aid convoy attacked in Mosul - Hurriyet  
TIME: US wants Syrian support for Iraq - Sabah  
Bush, Kerry showdown on TV - Hurriyet  
Diyarbakir mayor: Time to bid farewell to arms - Milliyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

EU: Entry talks depend on penal code reforms - Cumhuriyet  
EU: No talks without penal code reforms - Referans  
Erdogan confident he will convince Brussels - Yeni Safak  
Strain with EU hits Turkish markets - Radikal  
Tal Afar aid convoy attacked in Iraq - Yeni Safak  
FM Gul: Don't mess with Kirkuk - Yeni Safak  
Seymour Herish: Rumsfeld ordered torture in Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
Provocation: Two Sunni leaders killed in Sadr City -  
Cumhuriyet  
Germany bans Islamic international conference in Berlin -  
Radikal  
After Russia, Australia approves 'preventive strike'  
doctrine - Radikal

#### BRIEFING

Penal code/adultery debate: The EU cannot begin entry negotiations with Turkey if the new penal code is not adopted by the October 6, European Commission spokesman Jean-Christophe Filori said on Monday. A public row flared between Verheugen and Turkish PM Erdogan last week, when Erdogan told the EU to stop meddling in Turkish domestic affairs. Filori responded to Erdogan on Monday, saying: 'It is not interference in Turkish affairs, but rather the rules of the game if a country wants to be an EU member.' Erdogan will visit Brussels on Thursday to meet with Verheugen and other EU leaders. Erdogan will reportedly raise the example of legalized narcotics sales in the Netherlands and urge EU leaders to 'tolerate' the controversial adultery provision to be included in the penal code reform. Some mainstream dailies expect the AK Party to backpedal at the last minute and enact the penal code on November 2. FM Gul is optimistic, saying that Turkey had enacted 'incredible' reforms in the last two years, and that Ankara would be granted an unconditional date for EU accession talks in December. In a front-page story, "Radikal" says that a survey on adultery carried out in 1999 is at odds with the view of the AK Party that the Turkish nation wants adultery to be criminalized. The survey showed a majority of both men and women think that adulterers should not be punished. The survey was conducted through one-on-one interviews with 3,053 Turks. The majority of Turks support Turkey's EU accession process and are unlikely to change their views for the sake of criminalizing adultery, "Radikal" stresses.

Meat, rice bargaining with the US: US Ambassador Eric Edelman called on Minister of Agriculture Sami Guclu on Monday. The US wants Turkey to allow meat imports, and to remove quotas and lower customs tariffs on US rice imports. Otherwise, the US side said it will take the issue to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Turks have said that the presence of BSE (Mad Cow Disease) as the main reason for the ban on meat imports, and see no problem with a possible US application to the WTO on the issue. Agriculture Minister Guclu reportedly told the US that Turkey did not prefer buying American rice because it was 'costlier' and 'of lower quality' than rice from other countries. Turkish aid convoy attacked in Iraq: The Turkish Red Crescent humanitarian aid convoy to the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar was attacked by Iraqi insurgents en route to

Mosul on Monday. Five Turks were injured, two of them Turkish journalists. Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement saying that 'such an attack on a humanitarian aid team aiming to assist the people of a neighboring country has demonstrated the seriousness of the situation in Iraq.' The MFA noted that universal rules prohibit such acts against humanitarian aid teams under any conditions. The Turkish company 'Vinsan,' which is working in Iraq, confirmed yesterday that Iraqi militants had abducted ten of its workers. The insurgents gave 'Vinsan' 72 hours to leave Iraq. 'Vinsan' said in a statement aired by Al-Jazeera that it had no links with any American company. 'Vinsan' believes the abduction of its workers had been plotted by local Iraqi businessmen who want to kick Turkish rivals out of Iraq. Meanwhile, another Turkish truck driver was killed in Mosul, and the corpse of a second Turk, also a driver, was found near Tikrit in on Monday.

Turkish, Greek FM's meet in New York: Greek FM Moliviatidis told Turkish FM Gul in New York yesterday that Athens would vote for Turkey's European membership even if all other EU members vote against it. Moliviatidis also gave full support to efforts to end the international isolation of Turkish Cypriots, and for Turkey's candidacy for the UN Security Council in 2009-2010. Gul said the Turkish-Greek deal to cancel all military exercises would also be implemented this year. FM Gul is in New York to attend the 59th annual UN General Assembly meetings. 'Zaman' reports that Gul stressed his determination to continue the US-Turkey strategic partnership in a speech he delivered at the National Strategy Forum in Chicago on Sunday. 'Turkey is America's true strategic ally,' Gul said, noting that both countries need more consultation and cooperation in Iraq.

'Milliyet' interviews mayor of Diyarbakir: 'Milliyet' talked with Osman Baydemir, mayor of Diyarbakir, Turkey's largest Kurdish majority city, about the current situation in the region. Baydemir noted that the time had arrived to 'bid farewell to arms' in the southeast. Baydemir offered a 'peace plan' that envisages a 'period of no conflict,' which could be called a cease-fire. 1,000 out of the 6,000 PKK members jailed in Turkey are ill, Baydemir claimed, and he called for their release. Ankara, he said, should make an effort to reintegrate PKK militants now in the mountains back into normal life through an amnesty. PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan should be transferred to another prison, ending his 'isolation' on Imrali island, where he is currently jailed, Baydemir said. The mayor also asked for the lowering of Turkey's 10 percent election threshold in an effort to enable wider political participation. Baydemir said he had told EU Commissioner Verheugen that Turkey deserved to be granted a negotiation date for full membership. 'We must disarm the Kurdish opposition movement and make them join the democratic process in Turkey,' he emphasized.

EU Commission warns on Turkey-Armenia border issue: EU Commission President Romano Prodi said in Yerevan at a press conference with the Armenian FM Vartan Oskanyan that he was 'uneasy' that the border crossing between Turkey and Armenia had been kept closed. The border issue between the two countries might be 'harmful' to Turkey's EU claim, Prodi noted, and stressed that he would support efforts to reopen the gate. A spokesman for Prodi later denied that he had raised the Armenian border issue as a further precondition for opening EU accession talks with Turkey.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

'Kirkuk on the Way to Becoming Another Kosovo'  
Mustafa Balbay commented in the social-democratic/intellectual Cumhuriyet (9/21): 'US Ambassador to Ankara Eric Edelman last week responded to Turkey's worries about Tal Afar by saying that we are worried much more about Kirkuk, which is on the way to becoming another Kosovo.' (EDITOR'S NOTE: THE SECOND PART OF THIS ALLEGED QUOTATION IS INACCURATE. END NOTE.) Although there are many worrying things about the situation in Iraq, Ambassador Edelman is expressing his concerns about Kirkuk. To us, Edelman's statement sounded more like an announcement of intention. Although in Kosovo, the NATO umbrella carried by the US is gradually being handed to the European Army, no outsider has considered leaving the region to the regional people. Let us look at Kirkuk. The resistance is continuing their attacks all over Iraq, but it is notable that the resistance is murdering more Iraqi 'collaborators' than actual foreigners. This is a very strong sign that a civil war could begin. Incidents in Kirkuk have been different from those elsewhere in Iraq. Kirkuk is turning into a Kurdish city with the knowledge of the United States. Every day, hundreds of Kurds settle in a tent city next to Kirkuk. Arabs and Turkmen are coordinating against this resettlement. The situation is like an ethnic time bomb. It is obvious that US policy in Iraq is to leave the place in disarray. Plans to involve Turkey in this situation can be considered within this framework. Barzani and Talabani are being used by the US. Although both leaders constantly

reiterate that they are 'brothers' with other ethnic groups in Iraq, they act in accordance with US wishes. Since I began my column with Kosovo, let me remind Barzani and Talabani of a Balkan proverb: 'those who don't treat their brothers as a brother will eventually be forced to call foreigners their master.'

"What Will Happen to Iraq?"

Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in the conservative-mass appeal *Turkiye* (9/21): "It appears that the future of Iraq will be similar to that which has taken place in Afghanistan. The US will leave the country to its own people on condition that real control of the country, including control of its energy resources, roads and bases will belong to the US. The US is waiting for the November elections and their new President (most likely Bush will be re-elected) to decide on its Iraq policy. The US is planning operations against Iran and Syria during the winter of 2004-2005. Therefore it is necessary to leave Iraq on its own and to retreat to certain bases. What will the Iraqis do? Obviously, they will kill each other in a civil war. There will be a census in Iraq on October 17. Around 25 million Iraqi who live in tents in the deserts will declare their tribal and religious allegiance. Of course, armed Iraqis will show higher numbers than they really have. Foreign observers will be rejected or even killed. In short, there will be a 'census war,' because the US will determine the number of parliamentarians according to the census results. Moreover, this disgraceful census will determine the basis for the borders of autonomous Kurdistan. Northern Iraq is being turned into the rose garden of Kurdistan. One of the main goals is to keep the Kirkuk oil in the Kurdish region. The other goal is for Kurdistan to stretch from Iran in the east to Syria in the west. Of course, the other goal is to prevent Turkey's intervention from the north. Having enough trouble with Iraq, Iran, Syria and the organizations they support, Israel might find such a Kurdistan useful, but that will weaken Israel's relations with Turkey. Israel's hopes for peace with the Arab World will then be left to some other century."

EDELMAN